

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

MARCH 17, 2005

The Malibu Farmers Market entered its sixth season of operation by Cornucopia Farms, a non-profit organization, this year. Cornucopia dedicates the proceeds from the Market to fund community projects such as teaching and demonstrating resource conservation as well as programs and opportunities for the Malibu community to participate in gardening, composting and sustainable agriculture. On Sundays, the Market offers a variety of locally grown organic home-farmed fruits and vegetables.

The Market is a valued community resource to the residents of Malibu and the surrounding County area, but is struggling to establish itself as a viable going concern. In its first year of operation, Cornucopia barely broke even. This year, as a result of ongoing operational concerns typical of start-ups, Cornucopia Farms continues to struggle, but is nonetheless committed to establishing a successful Market. In this regard, Cornucopia Farms is participating in a time-tested tradition of farmers markets throughout the county, many of which take years if not decades to establish break-even, then profitable, operations. Because farmers markets are of such value to their communities, they are often supported by their local jurisdictions.

The County charges a flat \$175 per-use permit fee for the use of the County's parking lot at the Malibu Civic Center. Since the City of Malibu waives its fees, and

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since the Market is continuing to establish itself, the County should assist Cornucopia Farms to continue to operate within its still slim revenues. For the first four years of Cornucopia's operation, the Board waived the permit fee in its entirety. Since the fifth year, Cornucopia has paid a portion of the fee.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors authorize Cornucopia to use the Malibu Civic Center parking lot for a weekly Sunday Farmers Market, and waive one-half of the \$175 per-use permit fee (excluding the cost of security and liability insurance) from the end of the period of the last Board-approved waiver through December 31, 2005, which marks the end of this season. At that time, the imposition of a per-event flat or percentage fee will be reevaluated.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors authorize the CAO to reimburse any fees paid to date that have now been waived.

Contact:

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SN Cornucopia Malibu Farmers Mkt, fee